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a second computer readable program code for causing a computer to transmit a request for audible caller identification information to the calling communication station in response to a determination that the standard caller identification information cannot be provided to the called communication station; and

a third computer readable program code for causing a computer to transmit the audible caller identification information to the called communication station.

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's courtesy in speaking with their undersigned Attorney during a telephone interview on August 9, 2000. Applicants' Attorney has not yet received an Interview Summary from the Examiner. Nevertheless, the statements made during that interview are incorporated in the remarks below.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 57-59 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if amended to overcome these rejections. Specifically, the Examiner asserted that there was insufficient antecedent basis for the term "caller identification information." Claims 57 has been amended to recite audible caller identification information. Claims 57-59 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-13, 15-28, and 30-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tatchell et al. Because Tatchell is asserted to be prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Applicants reserve the right to antedate this reference. Claims 8 and 46-56 have been

canceled. With respect to Claims 1-6, 9-10, 12-13, 15-28, and 30-45, even if Tatchell et al. qualifies as prior art, these claims are patentable over Tatchell et al. for the following reasons.

Claim 6 recites transmitting a text message to the called communication station. Tatchell et al. does not disclose transmitting such a message as asserted by the Examiner. In column 18, line 56-59, Tatchell et al. states that the agent can receive a text message and can translate that message, using text-to-speech, to obtain an audible announcement that is delivered to the called party. Tatchell et al. does not disclose transmitting a text message to the called communication station as recited in Claim 6. Claim 6 is, therefore, patentable over Tatchell et al.

Claim 9 recites determining whether a human is available to answer a call and connecting the calling communication station to the called communication station in response to a determination that a human is not available to answer the call. This is done, for example, to enable a caller to leave a conventional message on an answering machine only if the called party does not answer the call. Tatchell et al. does not disclose such a system. Claim 9 and Claims 10-14, which depend from Claim 9, are patentable over Tatchell et al. for at least this reason.

Claims 1-4, 15, 30, 31, 38, and 45 have been amended to recite transmitting a request for audible caller identification information to the calling communication station in response to a determination that the standard caller identification information cannot be provided to the called communication station; recording audible caller identification information transmitted from the calling communication station; and transmitting the audible caller identification information to the called communication station without transmitting an additional request for audible caller identification information to the calling communication station. Support for these amendments is included, for example, on page 3, lines 10-16, page 6, lines 13-20, and page 7, lines 9-13 of the specification. Tatchell et al. does not disclose transmitting audible caller identification

information to the called communication station without transmitting an additional request for audible caller identification information to the calling communication station as recited in these claims. To the contrary, Tatchell et al. discloses transmitting two requests to the calling party in order to obtain and announce their name and number to the called party.

Tatchell et al. discloses call screening features in column 17, line 46 through column 19, line 25 and column 20, line 39 through column 21, line 40, which describe the flow charts depicted in figures 8a-8d. Block 90 in figure 8a shows that a first request for audible information is transmitted to the calling party if a call does not include CLID. Information provided by the caller in response to this request is used to determine if special processing instructions for this caller have been specified, as shown in block 91. Later, an audible version of the caller's name must be obtained so that an announcement can be transmitted to the called party. As shown in block 106, which recites "Agent obtains Caller's name as delivered over the network or by asking the Caller to say their name . . .", the audible version of the caller's name can be obtained in two different ways. One way is for the textual name that was transmitted over the network to be converted to an audible format using text-to-speech. (See figure 8b, block 106 and column 21, lines 14-17). The other way is to transmit a second request for audible information to the calling party. (See figure 8b, block 106). After the audible information has been obtained, it can be announced to the called party. (See figure 8d).

Because Tatchell et al. does not disclose transmitting the audible caller identification information to the called communication station without transmitting an additional request for audible caller identification information to the calling communication station, Claims 1-4, 15, 30, 31, 38, and 45, and Claims 5, 7, 16-29, 32-37, and 39-44, which depend from Claims 1-4, 6, 15, 30, 31, and 38 are patentable over Tatchell et al. for at least this reason.

Moreover, Claim 1 recites canceling a call in response to input from the called communication station. Tatchell et al. does not disclose canceling a call as asserted by the Examiner. In figure 8d, Tatchell et al. only discloses redirecting a call to voice mail, connecting a call, or sending an announcement to the calling party. Tatchell et al. does not disclose canceling a call. Claim 1 is patentable over Tatchell et al. for this reason as well.

Claims 7, 11, 14, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatchell et al. in view of Yaker et al. Because Claims 7, 11, 14, and 29 depend from Claims that, as discussed above, are patentable over Tatchell et al., they are also patentable for at least the reasons stated above.

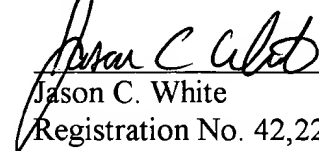
New Claims 60-68 have been added to recite analyzing data contained within a query to determine whether standard caller identification information for the calling communication station can be provided to the called communication station. Support for these new claims is included, for example, on page 5, line 31 through page 7, line 2 of the specification. Tatchell et al. does not disclose analyzing data as recited in these claims. Tatchell et al. includes a brief discussion of how a query can be used. (Column 6, lines 41-52). In that discussion, Tatchell et al. only discloses that a query can be used by a SSP to obtain routing information from an SCP. Tatchell et al. does not disclose analyzing information within a query to determine whether standard caller identification information for the calling communication station can be provided to the called communication station as recited in Claims 60, 67, and 68. Claims 60, 67, and 68 and Claims 61-66, which depend from Claim 60, are patentable over Tatchell et al. for at least this reason.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in

resolving any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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